GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEMAKERS

Shirley W. Walton
Extension Agent

That Wonderful Needle!

Because sewing machines are taken so much for granted today, it never crosses our mind what a precious item the needle really is. In fact, only until recently needles were treasured almost as dearly as jewels. During the Middle Ages women of the highest rank wore decorative needle cases. These cases were fashioned by jewelers from gold and silver and hung from a ladies belt. Centuries ago the loss of a needle was considered a major household diaster.

The steel needle was first developed in China. It is throught by some historians that this took place some centuries before the birth of Christ. Prior to this, needles had been formed from thorns, fish bones, ivory or shells. Some were hammered out of gold or silver. The steel needle eventually reached the Middle East and found its way into Spain. Of course, that is how we got the steel needle in America. By the Eighteenth Century, England had begun producing its own steel needles, and these were prized highly.

Owning a needle was a source of great pride. By the end of the Eighteenth Century, needles less than 1/100 of an inch thick were readily available for very fine work. Small 3"needle cases in the form of carved ornamental figures stood in special place on cottage mantels. Soon other sewing accessories came into popular use, such as thimbles, scissors, cases of embossed silver and carved wood.

As time went on, needles became available in numbered sizes and wrapped in special blue paper to prevent them from rusting. Do you remember Grandmother's pin cushion that had the special little strawberry on it that you were to sharpen your needle or get the rust off your needle. These needles were packaged in charming decorative cardboard boxes which have become collector's items today. Also, if you can find some of Grandmother's old needle cases, you will find that these too are quite a collector's item of today.

We do take the needle for granted. All of us have needles in our homes so that when we lose a button we can quickly sew it back on. We take for granted the many different kinds of needles that we can buy in stores today to do our needlepoint, crewel and other kinds of handcraft work, but just think of what a long romantic history needles have had. Today, after reading this, I hope that you have a new appreciation for the needle and its long history.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
Red Hot Pepper Jelly

¼ cup fresh red hot peppers - grated
¾ cup bell pepper (red or green) ground
6¼ cups sugar
1¼ cups vinegar
1 bottle of certo

Combine peppers, sugar and vinegar. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat and let stand 10 minutes. Put in jars and seal. Makes about 7 half pints.

BECKHAM

JULY 28 - Sunday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs Martin were Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Martin, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Carter, Crystal and Karen, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Martin and boys, Mrs. Larry Yeatts, Gary Yeatts, Mrs. Geraldine Moore and Gwen.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Moore, Gwen Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs Martin, Mr. Claude Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Guill visited Mr. H. O. Martin Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Clyde Moore is spending some time in this home.

Mr. Malcolm Drinkard was Sunday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Drinkard, Donald Lee and Miss Eunice Martin.

Miss Eunice Martin, Mrs. Howlett Drinkard and Mrs. S. G. Martin visited Miss Adena Abbott in St. Johns Nursing Home of Lynchburg Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. John Moore spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Henderson and Michael.

Mrs. Alfred Moore, Timmy Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Tuck spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Larry Stallings and girls of Bellvidere, N.C. Mr. Alfred Moore accompanied them home after spending several days in this home.

VA Question And Answ

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

Q - I am 55 years of age and have been awarded Social Security benefits because of a recent severe disability. I still have any World War II NSLI and have been told that I may not have to pay any more premiums.

A - You may be eligible for waiver of premiums if you have not been able to work for a minimum of six months. Contact the nearest VA office for assistance.

Q - I have a 50 per cent service - connected disability. Am I eligible for treatment for any nonservice - connected condition?

A - Congress passed a law in October 1976 that provides for medical services for any condition for a veteran who has a service-connected condition rated 50 per cent or more. Previously, this benefit was available only to veterans whose service-connected disabilities were rated at 80 per cent or more.

Q - I was discharged in 1953. Am I eligible for educational assistance under the current GI Bill?

A - No. To qualify under the present law you must have had service after Jan. 31, 1955.

Q - Who is eligible for VA hospitalization?

A - A veteran with one day of active duty who was separated under conditions other than dishonorable is entitled to VA care.

C. C. FERGUSON FAMILY REUNION

The family of the late C. C. and Nannie Harris Ferguson will have a reunion Sunday, August 14, at the Appomattox Rescue Squad Building.

Family and friends are invited to attend. Come and bring a picnic lunch. Lunch will be served at 1 o'clock.

Adding Machine Tape, Cash Register Tape, Masking Tape, Scotch Tape - We have it all at THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN. Call 352-8215.

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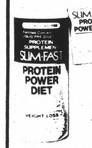

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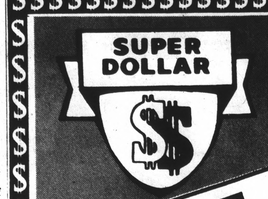

back-to-school super buys

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300 Sheets
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Matching Insulated Bottles
Famous TV Characters
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• Assorted Colors
SUPER PRICE $1.14
Our Everyday Low Price $1.57

SAVE 34c ON 2 BAGS
School Pencils
16 Pencils per Bag
SUPER PRICE 2 BAGS FOR $1
Our Everyday Low Price 67¢ ea.

SAVE 16c
Composition Books
Pkg. of 3 wire bound books
40 sheets per book
120 sheets per pkg.
SUPER PRICE 84¢ PKG.
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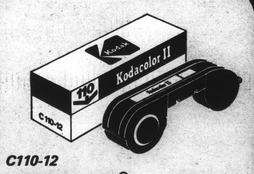

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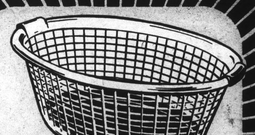

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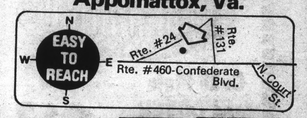

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